

On page 10, in line 15, cancel “- see the arrows printed in bold” and substitute --(see the bold arrows)-- therefor.

On page 11:

in line 2, cancel “[lacuna]” and substitute --to-- therefor;

5 in lines 16-17, cancel “- see the arrows printed in bold” and substitute -- (see the bold arrows)-- therefor; and

in line 23, after “element”, insert --,--.

On page 12, below line 13, insert

10 -- The above-described method and communication system are illustrative of the principles of the present invention. Numerous modifications and adaptations thereof will be readily apparent to those skilled in this art without departing from the spirit and scope of the present invention.--.

IN THE CLAIMS:

15 At the top of amended page 13, delete “GR 98 P 1418 P”;
“PCT/DE99/00934” and “New Patent Claims”.

On amended page 13, replace “Patent Claims” with WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

On amended page 15, delete “GR 98 P 1418 P” and
“PCT/DE99/00734”.

20 Please amend claims 1-14 as follows:

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1. (Amended) A method for connection control in a radio communications system [(KN)] during calls from and [/] to radio subscribers, said radio communication system comprising a [having - at least one] radio subsystem [(RSS, RSS*)] via which communications terminals [(MS)] which allow access
25 by said [the] radio subscribers can be connected in an associated radio area [(RRA, RRA*)], and a [- at least one] switching center [(MSC)] for switching

routing said [- in that the] connections between said [the] radio subsystem [(RSS)] and said [the] switching center [(MSC) are routed] via a radio transmission unit [(UE) in such a way], said step of routing comprising:

switching [- that] traffic channel connections [(ni) are switched] by said [the] radio transmission unit [(UE)] between a first radio subsystem [(RSS)] and a second radio subsystem [(RSS*) in the] for a case of a call within a radio area from said [the] radio subsystem [(RSS)] itself, or for a [in the] case of a call between radio subscribers in different radio areas [(RRA, RRA*)].

switching through only said signaling connections for a [in the] case of a call which relates to a radio subscriber and a subscriber of an other communications system [(PSTN), only the signaling connections (si) are switched through] from said [the] radio transmission unit [(UE)] to said [the] switching center [(MSC)], and switching said [the] traffic channel connections [(ni)] between said [the] radio communications system [(KN)] and said [the] other communications system [(PSTN) are switched] by said [the] radio transmission unit [(UE)].

3. (Amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising the step of: [or 2, in which]

sending back control information [(intra, inter) is sent back] from said [the] switching center [(MSC)] via a switched-through signaling connection [(si)],
5 said radio subsystem or said radio transmission unit initiating said switching of traffic channel connections utilizing said [on the basis of which] control information [(intra, inter) the radio subsystem (RSS) and/or the radio transmission unit (UE) cause/causes the switching of the traffic channel connections (ni)].

4. (Amended) The method as claimed in claim 3, further comprising the step of: [in which]

sending an identifier [(cic)] to identify trunks which are in each case used for a [the] call in said [the] switching center [(MSC) are also sent] back from said [the] switching center [(MSC)] via a switched-through signaling connection [(si), on the basis of which identifier (cic) the], said radio subsystem [(RSS) checks]
15 checking, utilizing said identifier, for a [the] presence of a call within a radio area, and causing said [causes the] switching of said [the] traffic channel connections [(ni)].

5. (Amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising the step of transmitting [one of the preceding claims, in which] voice signals [are transmitted] on said [the] traffic channel connections [(ni)].
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6. (Amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein [one of the preceding claims, in which] a satellite [(SAT)] is used as said [the] radio transmission unit [(UE)].

7. (Amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising the step of: [one of the preceding claims, in which]

carrying out a transcoder and data rate adaptation function;

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10. (Amended) A radio communications system [(KN)] for connection control during calls from and [/] to radio subscribers, comprising: [which has] communication terminals;

a [- at least one] radio subsystem [(RSS, RSS*)] via which said communications terminals [(MS)] which allow access by the radio subscribers can be connected in an associated radio area; [(RRA, RRA*), and]

a [- at least one] switching center [(MSC)] for switching through connections;
[characterized by]

5 a radio transmission unit [(UE)] which is arranged between said [the] radio subsystem [(RSS)] and said [the] switching center [(MSC)] and via which said [the] connections are routed, said routing being implemented so that when [in such a way, - that, in the case of] a call within a radio area between radio subscribers within a [the] same radio area [(RRA)], or when [in the case of] a call between radio subscribers in different radio areas [(RRA, RRA*)] are made, only
10 signaling connections [(si)] are switched through from said [the] radio transmission unit [(UE)] to said [the] switching center [(MSC)], and said routing being implemented so [-] that traffic channel connections [(ni)] are switched by said [the] radio transmission unit [(UE)] between a first radio subsystem [(RSS)] and a second radio subsystem [(RSS*) in the case of] when a call is made within a
15 radio area from said first [the] radio subsystem [(RSS) itself] or when [in the case of] a call is made between radio subscribers in different radio areas [(RRA, RRA*)].

11. (Amended) The radio communications system as claimed in claim 10,
20 wherein [having] said [a] radio transmission unit [(UE) which] is [in the form of] a satellite [(SAT)].

12. (Amended) The radio communications system as claimed in claim 10
[or 11, having], further comprising an interworking unit [(IWU, IWU*)] for
controlling said [the] switching of said [the] signaling connections [(si)] and of
25 said [the] traffic channel connections [(ni)] in a [the] respective said radio subsystem [(RSS, RSS*)].

13. (Amended) The radio communications system as claimed in claim 12,
further comprising [having an interworking unit (IWU, IWU*) which is connected

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